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(54) **Optical pickup and optical disk apparatus**

(57) The invention relates to an optical pickup and an optical disk apparatus applicable to, for example, an optical disk apparatus adapted to access a high-density recorded optical disk (5), so as to realize a simplified structure capable of preventing any characteristic deterioration of a focus error signal caused by horizontal deviation. An optical path length difference generator means (39) is disposed in an optical path to produce an optical path difference between two luminous fluxes obtained through resolution of return light (L2).

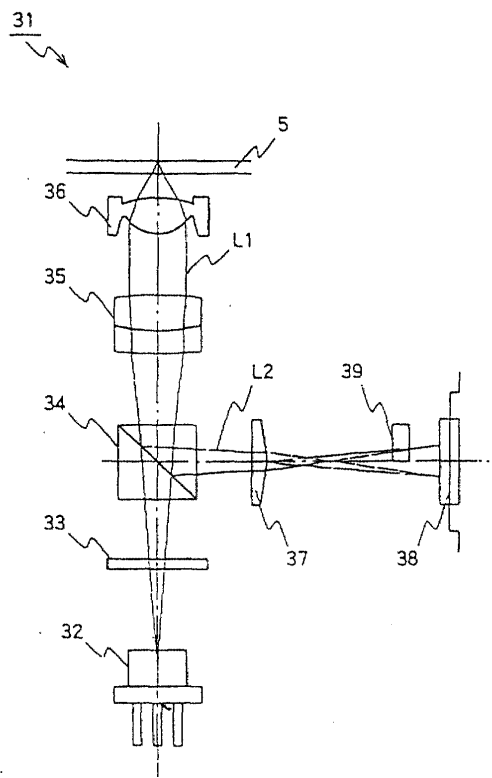


FIG. 1



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 14 January 2003	Examiner Damp, S
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P.04.C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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